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Soviet Parapsychology Research

I. Mr. President, because the recent arrest and questioning of US newsman Robert Toth in Moscow has brought attention to Soviet parapsychology research, you may be interested in our current evaluation of Soviet activities in this field.

A. The CIA, among others in the intelligence community, has sponsored research experiments in an attempt to determine whether parapsychological phenomena do exist and whether they might be applied usefully in intelligence activities. This US research has been limited primarily to remote viewing--the acquisition of information about remote places and events by paranormal means.

1. The investigations indicate that certain individuals exhibit an ability to describe details of a remote scene which they have not seen directly, and that this ability may be useful for intelligence purposes.
2. Further US research is needed to determine if it is possible to improve the reliability and quality of information obtained by paranormal means sufficiently to provide a cost effective

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 collection.

II. On the Soviet side, there is considerable evidence--
[redacted]

that the USSR has a classified parapsychology research
program.

- A. This program started about 1960.
- B. It appears to be funded largely by the military
and to have substantial KGB involvement, possibly
including some KGB funding.
- C. The classified work is conducted by several hundred
scientists plus supporting staffs at several--possibly
as many as 10--institutes. Most of these institutes
are located in Moscow, but others are in Alma Ata,
Baku, Novosibirsk, and possibly Leningrad.

III. The Soviet program is broadly based and interdisciplinary.
The work is believed to emphasize the following areas,
which the Soviets may believe have potential usefulness
for intelligence and military purposes.

- A. Clairvoyance (remote viewing) to acquire intelligence
about remote locations not accessible by
other means.

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B. Telepathy to influence remotely the physical and/or mental state of targeted individuals, and to establish covert communication.

C. Psychokinesis to cause the movement of remote objects, such as switches in electronic circuitry.

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IV.



A. The questions asked of US researchers and parapsychology enthusiasts by Soviet investigators at international conferences suggest that the Soviets may have acquired more experience than US researchers, particularly in the area of remote viewing. There is little, however, to indicate whether Soviet capabilities are significantly more advanced than those of the US.

V. In addition to classified research, a substantial amount of unclassified, non-applied parapsychology research is conducted in the USSR.

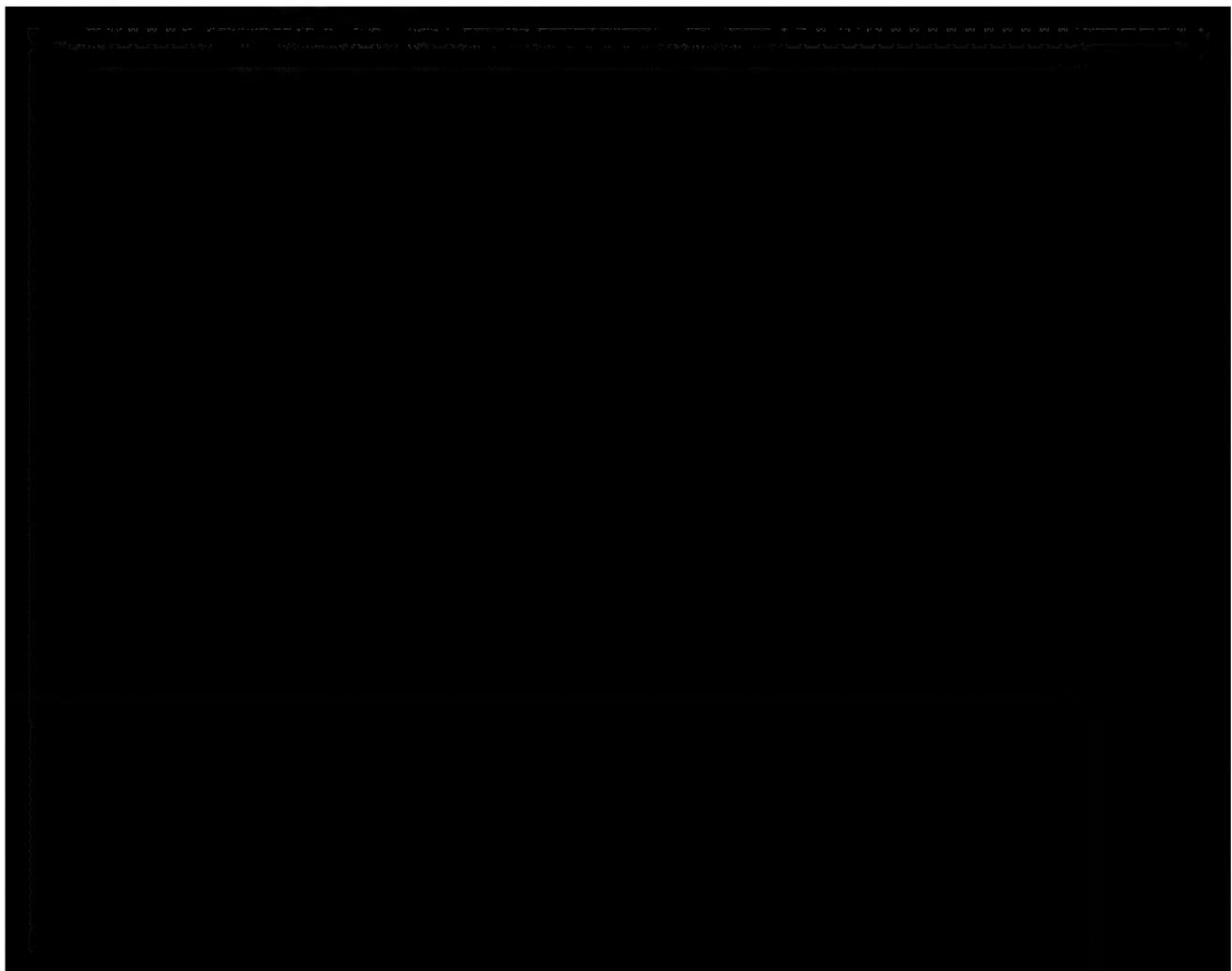
A. This work is largely the part-time activity of parapsychology hobbyists, many of whom are scientists trained in other, unrelated fields of research.

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B. It is these scientists who usually maintain contact with their Western colleagues.

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